



‘Works for Children’

Annual Report 2009



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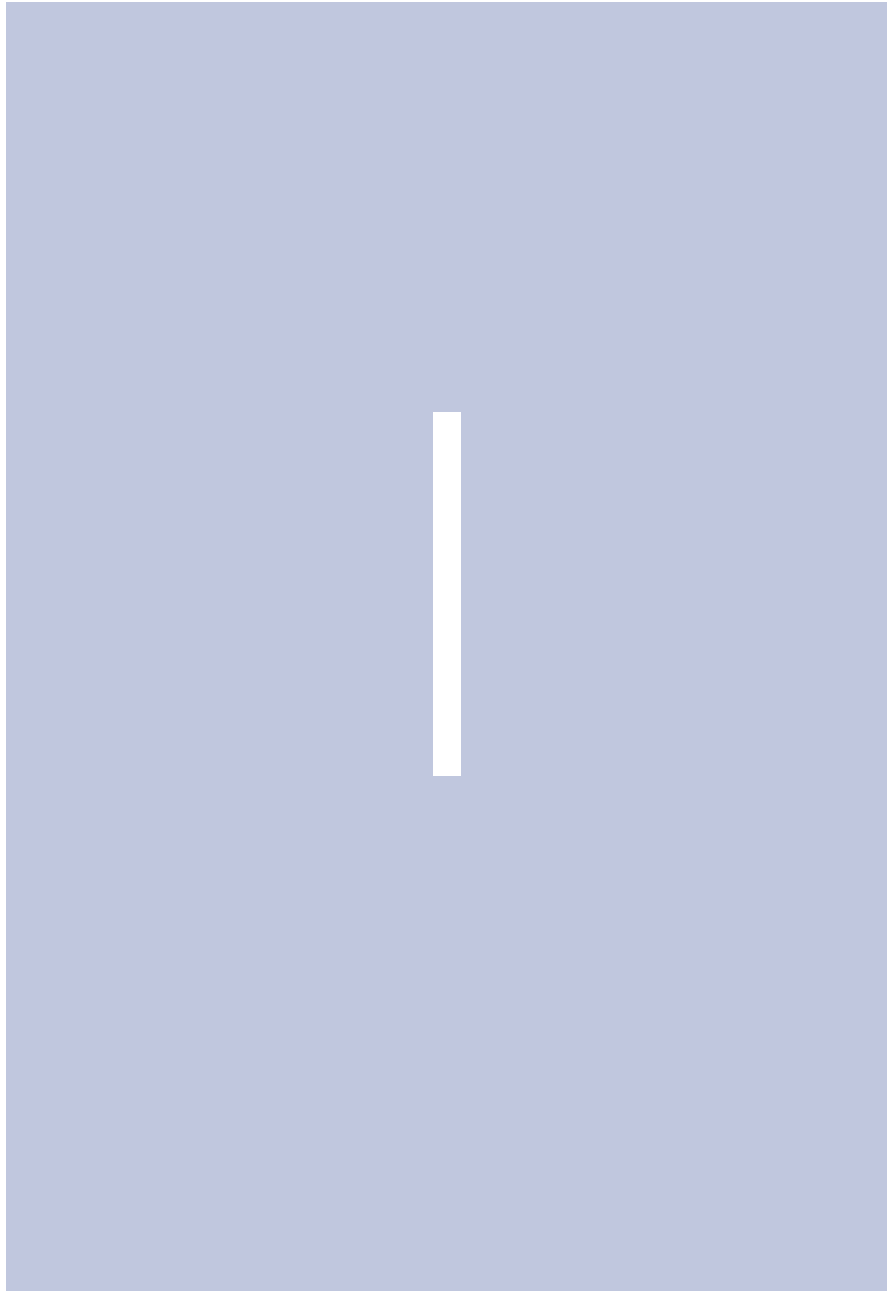
Annual Report 2009





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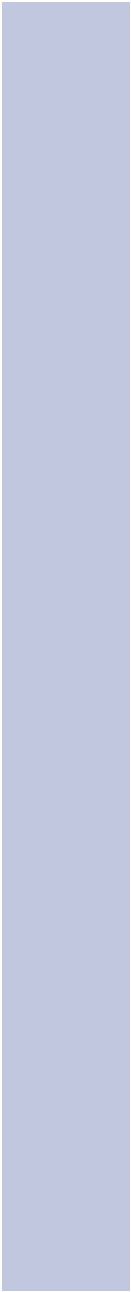
Introduction

As a result of the global recession, 2009 was a challenging year for many organizations working in the field of international development and child welfare. Thanks to ICDI's broad network, the growing maturity of the organization and increasing recognition of its work with and for children, a great deal was nevertheless achieved. During the course of the year, ICDI moved office, expanded its project portfolio, and - with a range of new partners in the Netherlands and abroad - explored possibilities to jointly work towards meeting the needs of children growing up in difficult circumstances in a more effective manner. Overall, ICDI's options for the future were expanded upon —and, not insignificantly, the organization managed to keep the financial deficit within limits.

Perhaps the most obvious change in 2009 was the change of office space. After having spent many months in what oftentimes seemed like a permanent building site, the renovation of the Child Rights Home (the former 'Weeshuis' or orphanage) was finally completed (the formal opening will take place at the end of May 2010). ICDI was able to move to its new office space in May 2009, which in turn allowed the builders to renovate the space it had formerly occupied. The renovation of the building has meant ICDI now has far better facilities at its disposal. More importantly however, it has brought together a range of organizations that share a concern for and substantial experience in promotion and protection of children's rights: ICDI, Defence for Children International (DCI/Ecpat), International Research on Working Children (IREWOC), Stichting Meldpunt Kinderpornografie (the notification point for child pornography in the Netherlands), the Netherlands section of the Fédération Internationale des Communautés Éducatives (FICE-NL), and the Children's Rights Shop, Leiden. Together they represent a powerful voice for children's rights, provide a natural focus on children, youth and those working with them, and offer an enhanced capacity to respond to particular needs through cooperation. ICDI sees an exciting opportunity in the move. It is committed to continuing as a lead organization in subsequent developments, and the Board would like to express its considerable appreciation to the Utopa Foundation for making it all possible.

The work for children that ICDI has itself completed in cooperation with counterparts in other countries is outlined in detail in the pages of the following report. It is particularly noteworthy that despite the recession, more projects were undertaken and implemented in 2009 than in any previous year. Some were multi-year projects that simply continued, but many others were short-term projects to meet pressing needs, and they were carried out in countries as far apart as Bulgaria and Kenya, Israel/Palestine and The Netherlands, or Surinam and Romania. However, it is obviously content that matters and this report, entitled 'Works for Children', records ICDI's involvement in child protection, early childhood development, child and youth participation, and newly emerging needs of children that require more consideration, more recognition and ultimately more action. Together they reflect the depth, maturity and reflective nature of its work that is helping the children who are deprived in its project areas.

David Dunham
Chair of the board



Who we are and what we do

International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI) is a Dutch non-profit organization with a world-wide brief, and a focus on transitional and developing countries. ICDI promotes the well-being of children growing up in difficult circumstances. We work to improve the policies and practices which affect these children by assisting in the development of local capacity (of children, their communities, organizations, and authorities). We believe in the power of children and young people, supporting their rights and addressing the underlying causes for the problems they face.

ICDI mission statement

ICDI is a non-profit organization that is practice, research and policy-oriented. Our guiding principles are firmly rooted in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We believe that children are important in their own right and should feature high on political agendas everywhere. We promote the holistic development of children, the empowerment of families and communities, and build on existing knowledge and local strengths. We strive to address the underlying dynamics of child neglect, abuse, and discrimination, rather than the symptoms. We work internationally, especially in developing and transitional countries, and collaborate with other national and international non-governmental organizations, government agencies and research, teaching and training institutions. In practice this leads to projects that are comprised of:

- Tailor made training and capacity building of local stakeholders (Community Based Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, Government Agencies, etc.), especially those responsible for the care of children (social workers, teachers, parents, police, etc.) in a range of relevant child development issues, e.g. psychosocial development of children, Early Childhood Education and Care, inclusion of children with disabilities, preventative community based programmes against sexual abuse, and so forth.
- Policy development and advice. ICDI has build a strong track record in advising government bodies and local authorities on how to reform and improve child protection services and systems (although 'system' is often a too big a word for what is available). We approach these issues with a realistic view, tailoring our advice to the possibilities available. One of our particular areas of expertise is improving services and care for children without parental care (de-institutionalization and foster care).
- Innovative research on issues like 'Newly Emerging Needs' of children (referring to instances where 'traditional' problems such as poverty and transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS are compounded by new, 'modern' problems that no one seems to know how to deal with yet) and 'Positive Deviance' (referring to children that do well despite adversity and the potential lessons that might be learned from their experience). Research into other topics may also be pursued, the leading principle of ICDI's research being that it is to have practical value. Research is never done for the sake of research itself; it always has to have clear implications for improving the situation of children or the capacity of those responsible for their care.
- ICDI has also proven to be a good network builder, both within as well as across borders. The aim is to facilitate the coming together of people and organizations that in one way or another work on child development issues, encouraging them to share knowledge and cooperate in finding hands-on solutions.

ICDI is not a grant-making organization and does not provide financial aid to other organizations. We need to be compensated for the technical assistance we provide, and have to generate income to cover our expenses, mainly through paid project work, consultancies and other funds.

We are member of the Dutch Child Rights Alliance, a consortium of NGO's from The Netherlands and their partner organizations in developing countries. Currently the alliance is comprised of (besides ICDI): Plan Netherlands, Defence for Children International/ECPAT, Child Helpline International, Free Voice and Women Win.

ICDI is a founding member of the Dutch Child Rights Home (www.kinderrechtenhuis.nl, website also in English).

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Looking back on 2009

This was a memorable year in the 15 year history of ICDI. Memorable in the personal sphere of the writer of this chapter, because he became a father for the first time. Having a child gives you a new focus in life and leads to changes, whether you always like it or not (my son's name is Aron, by the way, and he is beautiful).

But it was also a memorable year for the organization itself. One could even say we had kind of a "re-birth". In May we moved to our new office space within the premises of the Child Rights Home (the renovation of which was completed at the end of the year). After spending years in ever increasing amounts of dust and rubble, it took some getting used to our completely refurbished, beautiful rooms. As if it was almost too good to be true. The new office space has undoubtedly given us new energy and new drive to pursue our mission. We see the Child Rights Home as a great opportunity to initiate new, innovative projects with and for children and young people.

There were some other memorable moments during the year. On the 19th of May we signed a new agreement with the Institute of Social Studies (www.iss.nl) in The Hague, which enables both partners to continue their fruitful collaboration on international child and youth issues. The Children and Youth in Development course, which we run each year, was yet again a successful example of our cooperation with ISS, with 20 students attending from 16 different countries (more about the CYD course further on in this Annual Report).

2009 was also the year that ICDI broadened its successful cooperation with Plan Netherlands. We formed the Dutch Child Rights Alliance, together with Plan NL, Defence for Children/ECPAT (also our partners in the Child Rights Home), Free Voice and Women Win. During the year we worked very hard within the alliance to develop a proposal for so-called MFS funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If our application proves to be successful, the Child Rights Alliance will work together on projects to promote equal opportunities and rights of girls in 15 developing countries from the beginning of 2011 until the end of 2015.

The title of this Annual Report is 'Works for Children', a title that is significant in three ways:

1. 'Works' as a verb, in the sense of 'being at the service of children';
2. 'Works' as a verb, in the sense of 'being effective in what we do for children'; and
3. 'Works' as a noun (plural), in the sense of 'projects for children'.

This -if I may say so myself- clever play on words is not just meant to be funny. In essence it is how we, as an organization, view our mission.

We implemented 23 smaller and bigger projects in 2009, compared to 11 of such projects three years ago in 2006. This shows that ICDI has grown considerably in organizational strength in the past few years.

With 9 dedicated staff members we feel we have enough "critical mass" to develop and sustain our role as a national and international driving force to support the cause of children and young people.

Mathijs Euwema
Director

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Child Protection

Child protection is used to describe a set of usually government-run services designed to protect children and underage young people, and to encourage family stability. These typically include investigation of alleged child abuse, foster care, adoption services, and services aimed at supporting at-risk families so they can remain intact.

Most children who come to the attention of child welfare systems do so because of any of the following situations, which are often collectively termed 'child abuse':

Neglect, including the failure to take adequate measures to safeguard a child from harm and/or gross negligence in providing for a child's basic needs (can be both psychological/emotional or physical neglect);

- *Physical abuse;*
- *Child sexual abuse;*
- *Psychological abuse.*

(Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

In 2009 ICDI was involved in 11 projects which aim to improve child protection services and systems.

These varying projects will have a positive impact on the situation of children in over 15 developing and transitional countries.

Kenya: Fighting violence to ensure education for all

In February 2009, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave the go ahead for the project 'Fighting Violence to Ensure Education for All'. This three-year project aims to end violence against children in the poorest communities in the capital Nairobi (Nairobi West, East and North) and in the Kwale coastal districts (Kwale, Kinango and Msambweni) of Kenya. This sector-wide approach is based on the recommendations made by the UN Special Representative, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, in his UN Study on violence against children. Project Partners are Plan Nederland, Plan Kenya, IREWOC, DCI/ECPAT, Child Helpline International, and Child Helpline Kenya. The project will run from January 2009 till January 2011.

ICDI is involved in three activities in this project:

- 1 Training on non-punitive approaches towards children for child protection workers;
- 2 Research on 'Positive Deviance' I;
- 3 Policy recommendations

A Kick Off meeting was organized in Kenya in April 2009 with the Dutch and Kenyan partners. During this meeting, a 'capacity building' working group was established to prepare the various training activities. The activities of ICDI did not start in 2009, but monthly meetings were held in The Netherlands with the Dutch partners to discuss the progress of the project.

¹ 'Positive Deviance' is a concept based on resilience. It looks at children who do well psychosocially, despite facing fierce adversity, trying to draw lessons from their experience. It's therefore very much a 'strengths' based approach to children's problems.





For a number of reasons, ICDI has not been able to start the activities it is responsible for in this particular project. Some of the main issues related to difficulties in communication between Dutch and Kenyan partners, and delays caused by staff turn over. Another Exchange Visit is planned to be held in The Netherlands in March 2010 during which we hope to make concrete plans for our activities in 2010 and 2011.



Logo MDG 2 (Achieving universal primary education) and MDG 3 (Promote gender equality)

Bulgaria: Enhanced Capacity in Child Protection in Bulgaria

This project, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ran from October 2008 until July 2009. The main aim was to support the Agency for Social Assistance (an executive structure of the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy) to develop its training programmes for social workers at the 148 child protection departments around the country. The project included an intensive training component for social workers and other professionals working with children. The project was successfully completed with all planned training sessions having taken place and a total of 241 professionals having been trained (exceeding the number originally planned).

In 2009, two more rounds of training sessions for social workers were organized in the Vratsa and Sozopol regions of Bulgaria. Topics included 'working methods with children', 'child development', 'recognizing and dealing with child abuse', 'cooperation with stakeholders' and 'the role of social workers'. These trainings were positively evaluated by the participants. We also developed a Training Manual which can be used for years to come.

A study visit to The Netherlands was organized for 15 Bulgarian social workers and representatives from the Agency for Social Protection. The group visited several Dutch agencies, like the Youth care bureau, Cardea Youth care and the Dutch Ministry for Children and Families. The study visit was designed to provide the participants fresh ideas and inspiration to take home.

Another important project activity was the drafting of a policy advice document by ICDI for the Agency for Social Assistance on developing ongoing training support for social workers in the child protection system. This document was well received and presented at a concluding seminar held in Sofia, which was attended by more than 50 people.

We feel we have to mention that a (follow-up) project proposal developed by one of the trained social workers (with feedback and support by ICDI) has received financial support by the Dutch embassy in Sofia. An analogy with a seed planted comes to mind...



ICDI's Mathijs Euwema providing training to Bulgarian social workers, in February

Croatia: Towards Quality Foster Care

The main goal of this 3-year project funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to improve the situation of quality foster care services for children in Croatia. Due to a lack of knowledge and methodological tools, and/or time of social workers, children in foster care and their carers face a wide range of problems. Broadly speaking, the situation in Croatia is characterized by a lack of support for foster families, children being removed from their caring foster families without appropriate preparation, children not being able to give their opinion, and furthermore, a negative image of foster care in its entirety throughout the country. The effect is that still too many children are brought up in institutions while there are potentially enough foster families willing to care for them.

Foster parents have taken the initiative to form associations and work on improvement of the system and exchange of knowledge and experiences. Three such associations have founded the Forum for Quality Foster Care (www.udomiteljizadjecu.hr) that aims to be the support and service centre for all the foster parents associations in Croatia. Support for this development is provided through experts of ICDI and Flexus Jeugdplein, Rotterdam.

Project achievements in 2009 included:

- New associations for foster parents started in Zagreb, Osijek and Dalmatia;
- The website (www.udomiteljizadjecu.hr) is further developed and expanded with a youth section and a Facebook option for youth;
- Three editions of the magazine for foster parents came out with a growing number of copies disseminated to (and through) centres for social welfare and other relevant stakeholders;
- Two national conferences on foster care were organised in Zagreb and Osijek where both Dutch and Croatian experts gave presentations. The first conference was on 'attachment', the second on 'contact with biological parents';
- 300 participants gathered for the foster families' day in Varazdin. They did workshops at age level (adults, children 4 – 12 and youth 12+) about the effect of foster care on the family and what good practices they experienced. This was organized to provide positive input to the discussion on how things could and should improve in Croatia;
- Ten young people have formed a youth in care network group: the Youth Board. A special part of the Forum website is for young people and they have set up a Facebook option for youth in care with over 300 friends (see link above);
- A handbook for youth leaving care was developed and disseminated among youth 18+, via the Centres for Social Welfare and associations for foster parents.



The project has so far resulted in a group of active foster parents and foster children from all over Croatia. This group is carrying out a range of activities on a voluntary basis and do this on top of their duties at home with - often- large families with children with special needs. The young people also have their work and study and cannot always give time to the project activities.

The big challenge for 2010 will be to make the project sustainable. To this end a first strategic planning meeting was organised in September with follow up meetings planned for January 2010. In addition, initial contact with potential donors has been made.



The Croatian foster care Youth Board

Suriname: 3 projects

Children in Suriname Programme

In this programme - that has been running for almost ten years - four Surinamese organizations work on improving conditions for children. They are:

- Klimop, which focuses on training of professionals in ECD and has gained a national reputation of high quality and effectiveness in delivery;
- Pleeggezinnen Centrale, which has succeeded in creating a most beautiful system of foster care;
- VPSI, which has become a national rallying point and service centre for staff working with children in institutions and children with impairments as well as a national advocate for children in the country;
- Stichting Projecten, which undertakes a range of interventions benefiting children throughout the nation, including those living in remote areas. Particularly noteworthy are their achievements in providing basic education to children at risk and promoting reading.

ICDI provides technical support to these organizations and acts as liaison with the major donor of the Children in Suriname Programme, the Dutch Schiefbaan Hovius foundation.

Disciplining children without using violence

This is a joint project of the Surinamese foundation 'Gezin en Recht' and ICDI. It foresees in the training of hundreds of staff of the police, military as well as parents and educators. These people will learn new approaches of educating and disciplining children without hurting, abusing or bullying them, something which continues to be a big problem for many young people in Suriname. This two-year project started in 2009 and is supported by the Netherlands UTSN scheme.

Country wide study on Vulnerable Children

ICDI is working with the Anton de Kom University and with the Human Development foundation on a research project into the situation of children in Suriname, focusing in particular on those who are threatened in their healthy development. Hundreds of children, caregivers and relevant stakeholders are to be interviewed, and the study report will provide both quantitative and qualitative data. The project was initiated and is financed by UNICEF Suriname. It started in 2008 and will be concluded in 2010.

Caribbean Region: Young in the Caribbean Magazine

This bi-annual bulletin seeks to report on policies, research and practices regarding children and youth in the Caribbean, and has been published in the past five years. It is published in 1000 copies that are sent out to most relevant child and youth care organizations and professionals in the region. In 2009, it underwent a radical "revamping". Rona Jualla of Trinidad and Tobago is the new editor-in-chief whilst Aldrie Henry-Lee of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and Rutger van Oudenhoven of ICDI have joined the editorial board. It is now a joint effort by ICDI and SALISES, of the University of the West Indies. The first new style issue came out in November and had as its main theme 'Violence against Children'. The issue was made possible with financial support from the Netherlands 'Kinderpostzegels' foundation.



Front page of the latest issue of YitC

Global/The Netherlands: 3 projects

Visiting Fellows

The Plan supported Visiting Fellowships are awarded to practitioners or researchers, usually from developing/transitional countries, known for their innovative work in the field of children/youth and development. During their stay in our beautiful office in the Dutch Child Rights Home they are offered an opportunity to reflect, refresh, write, establish new contacts and prepare new initiatives while providing occasional seminars in ICDI as well as the sponsoring organization and other institutions in the Netherlands. It is basically meant to provide the candidates with fresh motivation and new energy. The fellowships benefit all involved by the exchange of experiences, ideas and future plans.



In 2009, we had the privilege of working with a delightful group of people, they were:

- Aldrie Henry Lee of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica. Aldrie is associate dean of Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), and editor of the magazine 'Young in the Caribbean'. Together we worked on developing a graduate course on Child Development.
- Shadi Xaba of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund in South Africa. She worked on various issues, but especially on developing new avenues for child protection and Early Childhood Development services in the South African context.
- Natalia Rychkova of the University of Krasnoyarsk worked with us on developing a child-rights-based approach to policies and practices regarding young children in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia.

Children and Youth in Development Diploma Course



Every year ICCYS organizes the diploma course 'Children, Youth and Development' (CYD) for mid-career professionals. The course responds to increasing concern at national and international level for the protection of children and youth, the promotion of their rights and well-being and young people's capacity to play an active role in their own and their society's development. The programme is delivered through a combination of lectures, discussion groups, guided individual assignments, workshops, and study visits. In 2009, the course consisted of 20 students from 16 different countries. The professional background of the students was equally diverse; the CYD class of 2009 included people working for international and national organizations, teachers, and government officials.

The course introduced key issues in analysis, policy-making and implementation, with the aim of engaging participants in a critical overview of changing ideas and debates on selected problem areas affecting children and youth. The issues focused on were:

- Childhood
- Work and education
- Early Child Development
- Health and sexuality
- Rights of the Child
- Violence, abuse and neglect
- Youth marginalization and movements

During the ten weeks the participants were exposed to an intense programme, including: 30 lectures, eight guest lectures, five presentations by participants, one special seminar on Newly Emerging Needs of children and youth, eight movies (as part of the weekly CYD film series) plus five in-class films, and eight study visits. In addition, there were numerous group meetings, and hundreds of photographs were taken, countless jokes shared, and a few sleepless nights were had when students were frantically writing their final assignments.



The CYD class of 2009. In the top right hand corner are the course conveners: Rekha Wazir of ICDI and Auma Okwany of ISS.

Connecting People

Every year study visits are organized for the students of the CYD course (see above) to various international, government and NGO agencies in the Netherlands and in Belgium focusing on child and youth issues. The project 'Connecting People' makes these study visits possible. It is financed by Stichting Dijkverzwaring.

In 2009, we visited the following organizations in The Netherlands and Belgium:

- Bernard van Leer Foundation, The Hague
- ICDI / Child Rights Home, Leiden
- Plan Nederland, Amsterdam
- Gerritsmaschool (Special Needs Education), Drachten
- VBJK, Ghent
- Project School 'De Buurt', Ghent
- Day Care Centre of University of Ghent
- Youth Service, Ghent
- Art Basics for Children (ABC), Brussels

During the Connecting People programme we also introduce students to the 'cultural heritage' of The Netherlands and Belgium by visiting the Dutch village of Giethoorn (also known as 'Venice of the North') and the city centre of Brussels. Overall, we have received positive feedback from the students about the study visits.

Partnership Programme

The Partnership Programme provides professional coaching to people from transitional and developing countries working in the fields of education, child and youth welfare and child protection. Selected partners come for a two to three week visit to the Netherlands, where they take part in an intensive programme organized and supervised by one of ICDI's programme managers. Each visit results in the development of a particular, concrete outcome such as a project or research proposal, policy paper, an outline of a training module or a set of resource materials. For each partner a tailor-made programme is designed and implemented. The visitor can rely on

our commitment as well as our extensive networks in the Netherlands and abroad. On request, ICDI arranges meetings with specialists and organizations in the Netherlands and Belgium and provides training workshops. During their stay the partner(s) can make full use of ICDI facilities.

In 2009, we welcomed three partners:

- Irina Yanovskaya, of the organization Journalists for Human Rights, from the break-away region of South Ossetia in Georgia. In 2008, there was yet another brutal conflict in the country, with separatists and Russian forces fighting against the Georgian army. There were many casualties on both sides. Irina and her team have for many years been trying to support children in South Ossetia, also aiming to bring together children from both the Ossetian and Georgian ethnic groups. During her stay in The Netherlands she mainly worked on (re-) establishing contacts with potential Dutch donors, such as Mama Cash, War Child and Amnesty International, to gather support for her work back home.
- Armen Varosyan of the Urban Foundation for Human Development in Jerevan, Armenia. Armen's stay was mostly used to develop a project that will address the issue of children left behind by migrating parents, a huge problem in this impoverished former Soviet republic on the outskirts of Europe. A positive aspect effect of working with Armen and his foundation is that ICDI now has a stable partner in this country in the Caucasus, which has led to two more joint proposals submitted to the EU.
- Vesela Banova of Bulgarian Child Development Initiatives. Vesela is an old friend of ICDI with whom we cooperated in many projects. She is a psychologist and a leading figure in advancing innovations in the Bulgarian child protection system. During her stay with us she worked on a project proposal to study resilience in girls that have been victims of sexual abuse. Another proposal in the field of Early Childhood Education and Care will be submitted with UNICEF Bulgaria.



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Early Childhood Development

Few things in life inspire more awe or hope than the miracle of a newborn child. Whether that child fulfils her or his vast potential is largely in the hands of the family, the community and country into which she or he is born.

The early years of life are crucial. When well nurtured and cared for in their earliest years, children are more likely to survive, to grow up healthy, have fewer diseases and to fully develop their thinking, language, emotional and social skills. When they enter school, their prospects for performing well are improved. And as adolescents, they are likely to have greater self-esteem. Later in life, they have a greater chance of becoming creative and productive members of society.

In just one generation, these human gains can help break the cycles of poverty, disease and violence that affect so many countries.

It is a child's right to have every chance to survive and thrive. Moreover, ensuring optimal conditions for a child's early years is one of the best investments that a country can make if it is to compete in a global economy based on the strength of its human capital.

Yet, tragically, the early childhood years tend to receive the least attention and lowest investment from governments. Every year, some 132 million infants around the world attempt an extraordinary sprint – from defenceless newborns to pro-active three-year-olds. And every year, countless numbers of them are stopped in their tracks – deprived, in one way or another, of the love, care, nurturing, health, nutrition and protection that they need to survive, grow, develop and learn.

(Source: UNICEF)

In 2009, ICDI was involved in eight different projects focussed on promoting Early Childhood Education and Care, reaching thousands of young children in countries around the world.

Serbia: Begin at the Beginning; promoting Early Childhood Development through community-based initiatives

The goals of this project funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs are:

- a) To stimulate, support and expand adequate Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) provision in five high-risk areas in the country;
- b) To improve the access of children to these provisions and support children and their parents in exercising the right to ECEC; and
- c) To create examples of good practices, including training and develop policy recommendations for the country as a whole and communicate these to relevant stakeholders.

We implement this project together with our partners Centre for Interactive Pedagogy (CIP) in Belgrade and several local NGO's in rural Serbia. The project runs from May 2007 until April 2010.

The project supports the efforts of major stakeholders in Serbia to reverse some of the negative trends that undermine efforts to provide good quality Early Childhood Education and Care in the country. It focuses on stabilizing and expanding access to existing ECEC facilities, as well as on introducing alternative ECEC provisions and supporting parents to improve the care for their children. All five regions targeted through this project face one or more severe social and/or economic problems which impact on the developmental chances of pre-school children.



In 2009, a range of activities were carried out, including:

- 120 pre-school educators took part in a four-day training event, named Neither Black nor White aiming to combat prejudices and develop respect for diversity. Educators in Serbia, including those at pre-school level, increasingly have to learn to multi-cultural classrooms and the challenges this can bring. Within the framework of the training therefore, participants received materials and manuals on how to work with parents and children from different cultural backgrounds.
- There was also a tailor made set of tailor made training for parents on ECEC related issues which we consider to have been even more successful than the training mentioned above. More so than during the first training, we were able to involve larger numbers of parents in the training, especially those from minority and marginalized groups. During the training, parents had a chance to think about different types of provision for young children, and about qualitative, existing resources in communities that might be improved and used to the benefit of children. They also started to think about potential allies and what kind of projects they would like to undertake in their communities. We all think that these meetings provided a good foundation for the mini-projects – the community based initiatives which are the core of this project and which were initiated during the course of 2009.
- Awareness raising activities for other stakeholders. This activity was not planned, but thanks to the participation of Zorica Trikić, who coordinates this project on behalf of CIP, we organized one-day campaigns in all project communities. Advocacy materials were developed (the symbol of our project pictured here), with badges, flags, stickers and posters in various languages distributed to parents and children.





Examples of awareness raising activities in Serbia

- Meetings with representatives of local communities were held and approximately 100 stakeholders from different institutions were informed about the progress of the project. During these meetings ideas about community based initiatives were exchanged and all major stakeholders pledged their support for the upcoming local Early Childhood Education and Care initiatives (the mini-projects).
- Finally, 19 awareness raising sessions and meetings with local businesses and seven awareness raising sessions and meetings with representatives of local authorities took place. Relevant stakeholders were informed about the upcoming mini-projects and they promised support and participation in their realization. The results of these activities are visible in the set up of almost all mini-projects.

The focus in 2009 was very much on the implementation of 17 mini-projects by the local NGO's. Examples of these mini-projects include:

- **THE HAPPY YARD** in Zajecar municipality. The idea for this project emerged during one of the parents' meetings. Parents complained that where they lived there were no child-friendly spaces, and children did not have anywhere to play. Most of the children were not in the formal pre-school system, they stay at home with grandparents or with unemployed parents. The main idea was to create an outdoor space for children, and to do it jointly, and later to organize activities for children in that space. Primarily children from marginalized groups were involved in this project. The main activities included the creation of a playground and establishing creative workshop activities for parents and children. 90 children and their parents are now using this playground. An important result of this mini-project is that families and members of the local community have become empowered to take actions on behalf of their children.
- **BE PART OF THE STORY** in Ada municipality. This mini-project was implemented by a team of pre-school teachers, who together with children and parents from a Roma settlement prepared and performed a puppet show. The main idea was to initiate an outreach activity, to open up to kindergarten teachers the idea to go where the children are. Some of the project activities included puppet show performances in the Roma settlement, workshops with children and parents and joint workshops in a pre-school institution. The results were tremendous: prejudices between the Roma community and the pre-school institution were largely overcome, Roma parents and community members developed a better understanding of the importance of early childhood education and the number of Roma children in pre-school institutions increased. A total of 30 children and 60 parents were reached by this mini-project.

Turkey: 3 projects

No Child Left Behind

In this project which ran from January 2008 till January 2010, the overall aim was to assist Turkey in adapting the EU standards on early childhood education and meeting international obligations in relation to the rights of women and children. ICDI implemented the project with the leading partner Sardes (Utrecht, the Netherlands) and in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Education. It was funded by the Dutch Ministry of Education.

In this project the Dutch and Turkish partners tried out several new forms of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services in Turkey to improve the quality of early childhood education in the country and to increase the enrolment of young children in ECEC facilities.

ICDI was especially involved with the implementation and evaluation of two innovative ECD projects in the Southern Mediterranean city of Mersin. One project was the creation of a toy library in a kindergarten to stimulate reading by parents and children, and to attract parents whose children were not attending pre-school. It was found that the first objective was largely achieved, but that efforts to realize the second aim were less successful. Another activity in Mersin was the organizing of a so called 'summer pre-school' in poor, mostly Kurdish inhabited neighbourhoods. During the summer holidays of 2008 and 2009, a six week summer school course was provided and which was attended by approximately 150 children. These children - who had never attended pre-school before – spent these six weeks preparing for primary school, which in Turkey is obligatory for children from the age of six. At the same time, the mothers of the children involved were able to take classes on parenting and livelihood skills. These summer schools were considered very successful by all involved. Similar pilot projects have been carried out in Istanbul and Izmir.

Although the 'No Child Left Behind' project faced some problems during implementation, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs was very satisfied with the results. There is currently a big drive in the country to increase access to and quality of Early Childhood Education services. This project (and the ones mentioned below) highlight that ICDI plays an important supportive role in all these efforts in Turkey.



ICDI's Mathijs Euwema and Jordan Iossifov discussing ECD issues with pre-school teachers during a project visit to Mersin in November

Early Childhood Development Course

Together with NIHA (Netherlands Institute for Higher Education Ankara) and Sardes (Utrecht, the Netherlands), ICDI has developed a one-year diploma course on ECD for mid-career professionals in Turkey. During 2009, we worked hard on developing the curriculum, selecting the participants and doing other logistical groundwork. The course will start in 2010 with 17 participants (although we received many more applications this is the maximum we can currently serve). The first course will last for 10 weeks divided over the year. A next course with new participants is planned for 2011. This project is financed by the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, the Netherlands.

The Power of Picture Books-II

This was a follow-up project to build on the lessons learned during the first professional exchange between Turkish and Dutch authors and illustrators of picture books in November 2007 in Istanbul, with a particular view to exploring the potential of picture books to enhance young children's wellbeing by creating spaces to belong.

This second professional exchange was organized by ICDI in cooperation with Sardes (Utrecht). The BplusC library in Leiden provided invaluable support during the course of the (preparation of the) workshop. During the workshop which took place in Leiden, library staff gave the 15 Turkish workshop participants a tour of the library - and particularly the children's reading corner - and presented one of the more popular story telling 'tools', namely the 'kamishibai', a Japanese paper theatre used to display the illustrations of a particular picture book when reading to groups of children.

The organization 'Schrijvers, School and Samenleving' or 'Authors, School and Society' (SSS) served as an intermediary between ICDI and the authors and illustrators of children's picture books invited to speak during the workshop. Finally, three volunteer students studying media and journalism at the Hogeschool of Leiden and Amsterdam and the film and photography studio TB Media (Alblasserdam) supported the development of a DVD about the workshop - and the 'power of picture books' in enhancing social inclusion and respect for diversity.

The Power of Picture Books II workshop was financed by the Bernard van Leer Foundation. In addition, ICDI made use of its own resources - primarily in terms of human resources - to complete the DVD about the workshop.

The 'Power of Picture Books, part II' was an enriching experience. This was due to a range of factors, including the quality of the guest speakers; the enthusiasm and openness of the participants; and the support given to us by a wide range of actors, including the BplusC library in Leiden, the SSS and the Bernard van Leer Foundation; and the fact that we were able to build on the lessons learned during the first professional exchange held in Istanbul, in November 2007. The feedback ICDI and Sardes received from participants indicated they had found the sessions inspiring and that these had provided them with fresh ideas on how to further develop their work. The participants had also appreciated learning about the various ways in which organizations and book creators themselves stimulate reading in children and use picture books to increase children's participation in the process of storytelling, as well as that of developing a story and its illustrations. Participants discussed concrete possibilities of establishing linkages between different ECD organizations present to initiate projects to stimulate reading in young children in Turkey. Finally, participants also seemed interested in furthering the discussion on (education in) social inclusion and its importance in the early years of children's lives phase and expressed their interest of doing that with Dutch colleagues..



Turkish illustrators and children books authors at a Dutch kindergarten

Israel/Palestine: International Palestinian Children's Initiative (IPCI)

During 2009 an extensive ECD project was developed for the Shu'fat refugee camp in Jerusalem, this in cooperation with our long standing Palestinian partner, the Trust for Early Childhood, Family and Community Education. The project seeks to develop informal and formal ECD services for the thousands of underserved young children living in this 'old' Palestinian refugee camp. The idea is that this project would be a pilot, and that the model could then be later 'rolled out' in other Palestinian refugee camps in the region. Annabel Trapp, ICDI's programme manager for the IPCI initiative, worked very hard during the year to get financial support for the project. It is now being reviewed by a number of donor organizations, but although there is a lot of (media) attention for the bleak situation of Palestinian children, it is proving very difficult to find financial support for interventions that would benefit them. Especially for the youngest children, whilst it should be clear that they are in fact the most at risk; we are convinced that interventions at that age will bear fruit both now as well as in the future.

Russia: ECD in Siberia

ICDI worked closely with the World Bank (Moscow) and UNICEF Russia in their efforts to promote ECD in Khanty Mansisk Oblast. Rona Jualla and Nico van Oudenhoven made several visits to this remote Siberian region to assess the situation and provide advice to local authorities and pre-school principals and teachers. The couple also wrote chapters for a book on ECD which will be published in 2010 and distributed amongst thousands of Russian educators.

The Netherlands: Establishing a co-ordinating unit for the Bernard van Leer Foundation programme in the Netherlands

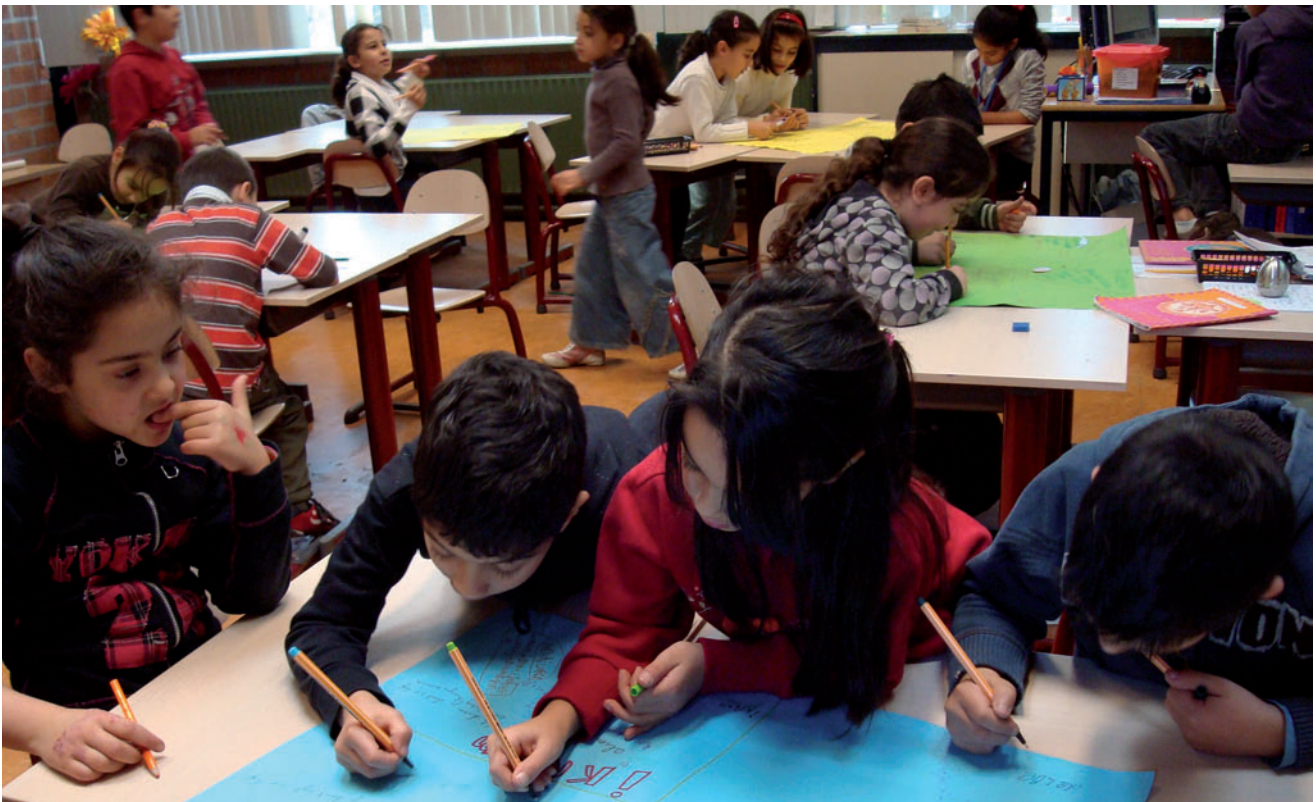
The purpose of this project is to support the Bernard van Leer programme in the Netherlands by linking knowledge, research, policy and advocacy on issues relating to poverty and disadvantages in young children's lives (0 – 8 years). It will run from April 2009 until April 2011, and is headed by ICDI's senior programme manager Margaret Kernan. The co-ordinating unit is funded by the Bernard van Leer Foundation.

The Dutch based Bernard van Leer Foundation funds and shares knowledge about work in early childhood development in 21 countries including the Netherlands. In recent years the Foundation has moved from a project-focused approach in the countries within which it operates, to an outcome-oriented programmatic

approach. As part of this development, locally based 'hubs' or co-ordinating units are being established in some of the countries where the Foundation focuses its grantmaking. In April 2009, a co-ordinating unit was established to support programme development in the Netherlands.

As a first step a functional and resourced co-ordinating Unit was established in ICDI. Current Bernard van Leer Foundation partners in the Netherlands received regular support and advice with regard to monitoring, report writing and proposal development. The co-ordinator also participated in partner-organized events and advisory boards (where relevant). As part of the re-organization and restructuring of Bernard van Leer Foundation programming, Margaret Kernan contributed to a scoping and consultation process. This involved reviewing current national and international policy, research, and curriculum and practice documentation in relation to young children and direct consultation with key organizations and individuals in the Netherlands. Work also continued on the cross-national Community of Reflection and Practice focusing on the social lives of young children, which was initiated by the Bernard van Leer Foundation in 2008. The results of this process were presented at the European Early Childhood Education Research Association conference in August 2009. An edited book, published by Routledge, will follow.

Determining the precise goal and tasks of the co-ordinating unit vis-a-vis the Bernard van Leer Foundation and the Dutch partner organizations has been a challenge. Contributing factors include: the re-organisation and restructuring within the Bernard van Leer Foundation, with accompanying new management, new priorities and new directions. By the end of 2009, attention had shifted from developing a programme titled 'Creating Spaces to Belong', which focused on issues relating to social inclusion and respect for diversity, to one which would be built around the three new goals of the Bernard van Leer Foundation: 1. Reducing violence in young children's lives 2. Improving physical environments; 3. Quality early learning going to scale.



Picture from the project 'Our Classroom My World', which focuses on developing attitudes, skills and knowledge related to identity, respect to diversity and citizenship amongst 6 and 7 year olds through ICT methodology in Dutch primary schools. Copyright picture: Els Schellekens.



Global: Universal Psychosocial Indicator for 5 year olds (UPSI-5)

The goal of this 3-year research project is rather ambitious: to develop a universally applicable instrument that provides an indication of psychosocial wellbeing of 5-year-old children. At present, the health of children is assessed by a range of 'rough-and ready' indicators measuring either physical health (the infant mortality rate/IMR and under-five mortality rate/U5MR) or nutritional status (e.g. height-for-age, weight-for-height). As to psychosocial functioning of children there are no such indicators, however. Proxy markers exist, such as school attendance or achievement, but these say more about the environment in which children live than about children themselves. Existing instruments designed to measure psychosocial functioning tend to be complex, time-consuming and/or expensive. The UPSI-5 research project aims to fill this gap. The project is expected to improve awareness of the importance of young children's psychosocial wellbeing and to provide a firmer basis for addressing the multiple dimensions of wellbeing in policies and interventions.

In 2009, we continued and completed our field studies, which we had started during the final months of 2007. In cooperation with various partners we tested the UPSI-5 tool in Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tajikistan. The data resulting from these final studies were submitted for (statistical) analysis during the last months of 2009 and the results of the overall study are expected to be finalized in January 2010.

We had decided to delegate the collection of data in Trinidad and Tobago, and Tajikistan to selected partners with a view to saving time and financial resources. Unfortunately, however, the data collected in these two countries proved not to be of sufficient quality to be included in the study and/or did not arrive in time for the data analysis. We were therefore forced to discard the findings resulting from these two last field studies from the overall research. Following this experience, we have decided that future studies of this nature, which do require careful supervision, are to be implemented directly by ICDI staff members.

6

Child and Youth Participation

It is important that children and young people are able to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 12) insists that children's views are given weight:

- 1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.*
- 2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.*

(Source: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

ICDI is committed to giving children and young people a voice and a say in their own lives. In 2009 we were involved in two projects promoting child and youth participation, one in The Netherlands and one abroad.

Netherlands: Preparation of Child Research Group

The idea to start a Child Research Group originated at a seminar 'Researching with Children' in Hull in December 2007 that a number of ICDI staff members attended. We heard about the Children's Research Centre at the Open University in England. This centre offers children and young people a course dealing with the various elements of a research process followed by one-on-one support to design and carry out real (social) research projects. The kinds of research topics children may focus on include things like 'Is Harry Potter bad for kids?', 'What is the effect of bullying?', or 'Who likes school canteen food?'.

We developed a plan to explore the possibilities of starting a similar programme at the Child Rights Home. Fonds 1818 and Foundation Heilige Geest Weeshuis provided financial support for a preparatory stage of the project, during which ICDI was able to investigate the possibilities of starting a Child Research Group at the Child Rights Home and develop a concrete plan of action. We were able to visit the Open University Children's Research Centre and talk to professor Mary Kellet, who initiated and developed the concept. We also met many other relevant organizations in the Netherlands to see if they were interested to participate.

Later in the year, Foundation UTOPA financed a preliminary piece of research, the findings of which were to be used to inform the project. Five topics were researched in depth:

- Themes of the research;
- Recruiting and selection of participants;
- Ethical considerations;
- Disseminating results;
- Planning of 'after care'.

On the basis of all this preliminary research, we were able to develop a concrete plan for the first Child Research Group. Stichting Alexander has become a partner in this project and is responsible for the content of the 10-week course. The course will be offered to a group of fifteen 12-year-olds from primary schools in and around Leiden. ICDI is responsible for the overall management of the project, contact with children/ parents and schools, disseminating results, monitoring and evaluation.

We are very happy to announce that with the support of Foundation UTOPA and three building companies (Meijer Bouw Sassenheim, Technisch Installatiebedrijf J. van den Burg & Technisch Installatiebedrijf Hijkooop) the first Child Research Groups will become a reality in 2010.



Logo of the Child Research Group (refers to article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the right to give your opinion)

Cyprus, Spain & Italy: Youth Activism.Net

The project 'YouthActivism.Net in Europe' is implemented by the Foundation of Social and Political Studies (Cyprus) together with its four partners: the NGO Support Centre from Cyprus, DICOCOM from Italy, AVANZZA and ICDI. The project is funded within the framework of the EU Youth in Action Programme – Action 4.5 'Supporting information activities for young people and youth workers'. The project, which runs from March 2009 to September 2010, addresses the following two themes: (1) Participation of young people and (2) European citizenship. Project activities include, among other things, the development of audiovisual/ multimedia materials and publications for young people and the identification and sharing of good practices.

The introduction, cultivation, and promotion of civic activism amongst young Cypriots, Spanish and Italians aged 15- 28 is an especially innovative aspect of the project, taking into consideration that the active participation of youth in these countries is lower in comparison with other western societies. For the first time, these youngsters have the opportunities to be informed and inspired on how they can make a difference in their communities, and in the European context in general on issues that are of interest to them. ICDI is especially interested in this as we have worked in Cyprus on several youth related projects. We believe that young people are essential in tackling the deep rooted barriers that still divide Cyprus.

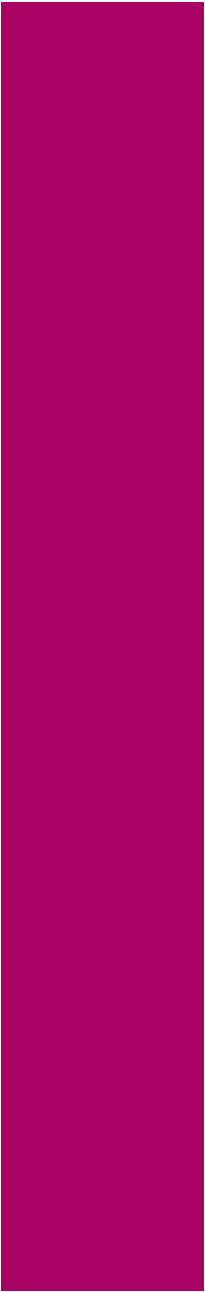
The project activities will enable the young participants to gain a wide array of activism skills (e.g. leadership and team building, creative thinking, problem solving) and skills on initiating their own youth and community projects. To the best of the consortium's knowledge this is the first time young Cypriots, Italians and Spanish will be able to find all the necessary information about national and European activist groups and resources to initiate their own projects.

The project aims to directly encourage the participation of the youngsters in public life and to promote the European citizenship. By making knowledge and resources available to young people and providing them with skills based teaching, it is expected that at the very least, the members of the Youth Advisory Committees will become active citizens and serve as multipliers among their peers, cherishing and promoting active participation and European citizenship. It is also expected that youth and youth workers across Europe will benefit from the web-portal YouthActivism.net, a virtual information centre for all who are interested in youth activism in Europe. This will help them engage in a creative and democratic dialogue for the future of youth activism in Europe.

In this ICDI has a special role, as in 2009 we have started to prepare a study visit (scheduled in 2010) to the Netherlands, where they will meet and learn from organisations and people who have a keen interest in involving youth in today's most pressing issues.



Logo of the Youth Activism.Net project



Newly Emerging Needs (NEN) of Children

We use the term 'newly emerging needs', or NENs, to describe a loosely connected group of challenges, problems and opportunities that are relevant to the overall development of children. Yet, many of these are not given adequate attention by researchers and policy makers, and the tools to analyze them, and certainly to address them, are conspicuously absent. They are 'new' in the sense that they did not exist anywhere in the world or did not exist before in a given society. They are not discussed in regular textbooks on education or child psychology and parents and caregivers do not have the skills to fully recognize them, let alone the experience to deal with them. Society as a whole appears unable to identify these needs and challenges and to formulate coherent responses to them. Monitoring systems, when in place, do not have the necessary filters that would pick up these new trends as they tend to be restricted to issues that are part of the common discourse on children, such as school attendance, mortality, nutritional status or contact with the police. It would be incorrect to say that there are no responses to these new challenges, but at best these are knee-jerk reactions to individual events without much thought given to their underlying processes and to sustained follow-up. Our aim is to highlight some of these trends so that policy makers and development agencies can take them on board as part of their ongoing work and generate policy responses to them before they reach epidemic proportions.

(Source: Van Oudenhoven & Wazir, 2006)

In the period 2005-2008 ICDI, together with ISS, did ground breaking research into Newly Emerging Needs of Children. We talked to hundreds of children and young people and other stakeholders in countries around the world, managing to identify global and local trends. Several publications and presentations since then followed and the book 'Newly Emerging Needs of Children; an exploration' has already been translated in Portuguese, Romanian, Russian and Bulgarian. We feel that the concept of NEN is so relevant that we in 2009 embarked on a first follow-up project in Slovakia and Romania to further develop the research methods and response and intervention strategies to address these newly developing problems and challenges that children and young people face.

Romania & Slovakia: Newly Emerging Needs; support for professionals working with children and youth

In 2008, we were approached by our Romanian partners Civil Society Development Foundation and the Children of Slovakia Foundation to develop a project under the Leonardo da Vinci Programme, funded by the EU. We decided that the approach taken in the Newly Emerging Needs programme could be very suitable as innovative projects have always been at the core of the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

In our earlier research on Newly Emerging Needs of Children, we not only sought to identify and understand the underlining causes of Newly Emerging Needs, but also made several recommendations on ways in which to respond to them. The latter in particular is not easy, as it involves sustained coordination and involvement of multiple stakeholders in the field of child wellbeing, and access to relevant decision makers. The current project aims to take the concept a bit further and develop networks and methodologies in Romania and Slovakia that can respond to NEN's and take concrete action when a new phenomenon or trend arises.

In the beginning of 2009 we set out to establish two groups of people -two in each country- that would familiarize themselves with NEN and set out to do country studies. Researchers studied the literature and the media, held focus groups and interviews with a variety of stakeholders. Two reports (one in Romania and one in Slovakia) were published by the end of the summer and presented at several workshops held during the NGO fair in Bucharest. The workshops were open to the public, but mainly people from other NGOs and local officials were present. These reports highlighted the urgent needs children in the two countries have been

confronted with in the last decade or so; these include-amongst many others- migration of parents and children being left behind, increase and changing forms of violence and the disappearance of traditional mediators in the lives of children.

During the last quarter of 2009 we started a series NEN Training of Trainer sessions. The training sessions - which were attended by approximately 18 people in both Slovakia and Romania were designed to enable participants to subsequently disseminate the notion of NENs in their respective communities and establish networks capable of providing a response to NENs. The first training in Predeal, Romania was very successful. The trainees were enthusiastic about being involved in new issues and the fact that they might be able to tackle such issues before they got out of hand.

These trainings will be concluded in both Romania and Slovakia in the beginning of 2010. A practical guide on how to work with NEN's will be developed as well as other products such as two websites; www.copiisitineri.ro (Romania) and www.codetipotrebuju.sk (Slovakia). Besides providing general information on NENs and project activities, these websites will include downloadable materials and publications related to the project. A forum will help the newly established network to discuss and design a response to NENs posted on the site.

In addition, further research will be initiated. Several universities have expressed their interest to teach about NEN and even proposed designing a module on the subject. As ICDI we feel proud that Newly Emerging Needs have become one of the themes in which we offer tailor made training courses and that this increasingly urgent matter is starting to gain momentum on the international stage



Interactive stuff going on during the first NEN training in Romania

8

Other ICDI activities in 2009

In addition to giving guest lectures and presentations on child related topics to different audiences and at a range of venues, as well our regular participation in many different child care focussed networks (such as the Better Care Network, www.bettercarenetwork.nl), there were some specific events we like to highlight:

9 March: Fighting Violence against Girls Conference

Hundreds of practitioners from around the world took part in this conference, which organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague. ICDI played an important role in the preparatory phase and we facilitated a workshop on the issue of 'son-preference'. We also helped arrange one of the guest speakers, our long lasting partner Saleem Malik, director of Bedari in Pakistan, who does great work to promote the chances and rights of girls in his country (www.bedari.org.pk).

27 August: Meeting on Psychosocial and Mental Health Care in Developing Countries

Together with Plan NL and TPO/Health Net, ICDI organized a mini-conference on its premises for approximately 30 people from different Netherlands based NGO's involved in psychosocial care for children in developing countries. TPO presented a psychosocial screening tool they had developed and ICDI presented its UPSI-5 research (please see above for more details on the UPSI-5 project). During the meeting, participants were able to discuss some of the key barriers and opportunities for psychosocial and mental health care in developing countries.

20 November: Child Rights Conference in Leiden

In cooperation with the municipality of Leiden, UNICEF organized a national conference to celebrate and raise awareness on the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since the Child Rights Home was not ready most of the festivities took place in the nearby Hooglandse Church. Nina von der Assen of ICDI was requested to join the Kids Wise Jury, a side event in which child rights projects organized by Dutch children were given prizes. The 30 person strong jury met in our office to deliberate their decisions, after which there was an award ceremony with Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands.

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Looking ahead to 2010

On the 28th of May 2010, the Child Rights Home (www.kinderrechtenhuis.nl) will officially open its doors. ICDI will be involved in the preparation and facilitation of several aspects of the opening programme. Mid-2010, ICDI will also organize a special meeting with relevant Dutch child rights organizations, with a view to raising awareness of the Child Rights Home and involving other organizations in the development of Child Rights Home programmes and initiatives. ICDI has already developed a range of ideas for projects which might be carried out under the umbrella of the Child Rights Home, such as:

- Children's Research Group. In February we will start with a first cycle of this project. During a period of ten weeks, 15 children from different primary schools in Leiden will spend one afternoon per week in the Child Rights Home to take part in a training on researching issues relating to child rights. They will identify the issues they wish to study, and develop and implement a piece of research on this issue. Results will be presented to parents, teachers and others, and also during the opening of the Child Rights Home on May 28th, 2010.
- Young Child Right Advocates. We hope to invite four young 'agents of change' from different countries to the Netherlands, for instance those that actively work to promote child rights in their country and/or region. During their stay in the Child Rights Home they will be given the chance to raise awareness for their cause and gather more support. They will also be given small grants to support their work back home. In 2010, ICDI will continue to look for financial support for this project.

There are also other, new projects on the horizon for 2010:

- In the Ukraine we will start a new long-term project, together with our local partner, Labour and Health Social Initiatives (LHSI) and the State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth (SSSFCY). The project will last for two-and-half years and is expected to have a broad impact on social services' support to young people that have grown up in institutions. ICDI will, among other things, be involved in developing a training programme for social workers to enable them to provide life skills education to young people. The project is funded by the MATRA programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- ICDI will implement a research project on 'positive deviance' in the Netherlands. Based on the concept of resilience, positive deviance looks at the reasons why so many children growing up in difficult circumstances do so well (what makes them so strong?). Our specific focus will be on children from ethnic minorities in the Netherlands and the role participation in recreational clubs and activities might be seen to play in terms of promoting well-being and supporting the integration of young immigrants into mainstream society. We will organize focus group discussions with children and their caregivers. We will also organize a seminar on the findings of our research for policy makers and other stakeholders. This project will last one year and is funded by the EU in the framework of their '2010 year of poverty reduction and social exclusion'.

Besides the long-term projects that are set to continue in 2010 (most notably those in Croatia, Turkey, Kenya, Serbia, Suriname, Romania, and Slovakia), and other new projects that are in the pipe-line (in countries like Syria, Jordan, and Armenia), we also expect to dedicate a lot of time and energy on further development of our programme proposal on 'Girl Power; equal opportunities and rights of girls', together with our partners in the Dutch Child Rights Alliance. By November 2010 it should be clear whether our proposal is approved. Should this be the case, the real work of the Alliance will begin, namely the joint implementation of the programme in 15 different countries from the beginning of 2011 until the end of 2015.

In other words, it promises to be yet another memorable, busy and exciting year in the history of ICDI. We are not only looking ahead, we are also looking forward to this. ICDI works for children. It's what we hope to continue to do for a long time to come.



Dutch logo for the 2010 EU year to fight poverty and social exclusion



Summary Financial Report 2009²

Profit and loss account (amounts in €)

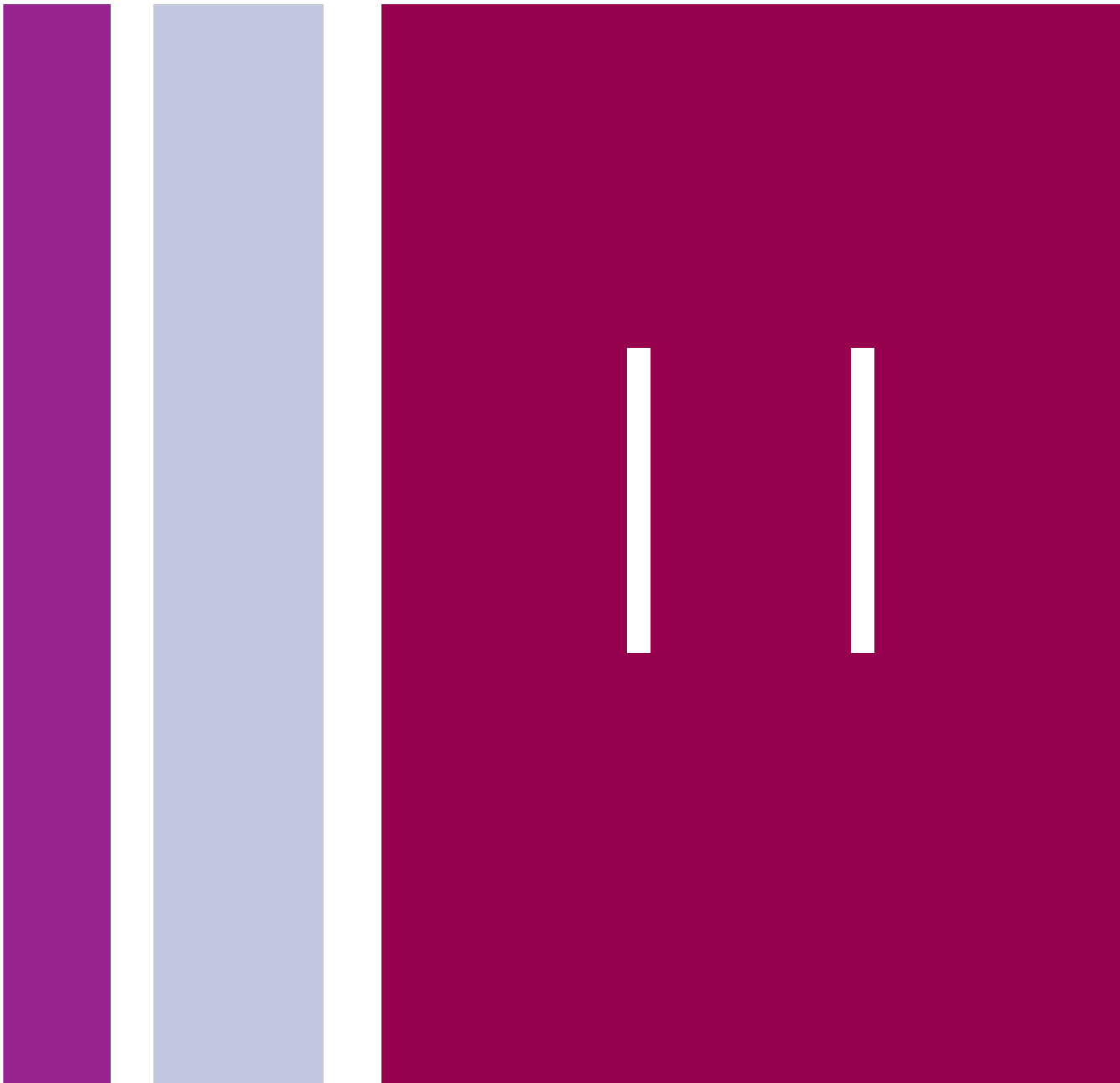
	2009	2008
Project funds/other income	825.953	973.462
Direct project costs	404.975	514.290
	420.978	459.172

Costs

Wages and salaries	391.401	365.291
Other staff costs	19.531	6.559
Depreciation	5.009	2.060
Housing costs	4.558	1.796
Other operating costs	27.980	36.211
Total costs	448.479	411.917

Operating result	- 27.501	47.255
Interest income	3.003	1.872
Deficit/Surplus	- 24.498	49.127

² For a complete overview please see the accountant's report, downloadable via our website.



ICDI board and staff

Board

The board has overall responsibility for management of ICDI. In practice this responsibility is delegated to the director; the board oversees and checks that the organization runs properly and reaches the objectives it has set itself. Members of the board conduct their duties on a voluntary basis and do not receive any financial compensation. Each board member is appointed for a maximum of six years, after which re-appointment is possible. The board has an uneven number of members (minimal 3) and meets (at least) twice a year.

Although ICDI does not use public or corporate fundraising as a means to gather income for its activities, the organization does (implicitly) adhere to the so-called Code Wijffels.

Chair:	David Dunham (former deputy rector of Institute of Social Studies, The Hague)
Secretary/treasurer:	Thijs Malmberg (manager at Ordina, a Dutch consulting and ICT firm)
Members:	Joan Ferrier (director of E-Quality) Evelijne Bruning (former head editor Vice Versa Magazine; in 2009 appointed as director of the Hunger Project)
	Arthur Offers (former director VSB Fonds)

ICDI staff per 1 January 2010

Mathijs Euwema, director
Jordan Iossifov, senior programme manager
Rutger van Oudenhoven, senior programme manager
Esther Miedema, senior programme manager
Margaret Kernan, senior programme manager
Nina von der Assen, programme manager
Asia Koerten, human resources and administration manager
Nico van Oudenhoven, senior associate
Rekha Wazir, senior associate

Staff turnover 2009: 1

Sick leave 2009: 3 %

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ICDI financial administration:

SynCount auditors in Bodegraven &
Heemskerk Financial Advisers in Leiden

Design of this annual report:
Danny Sin

ICDI Organogram 2010

